

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 ACDA-12 /091 W  
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R 171533Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7388  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GE  
SUBJECT: EAST GERMANY PAYS HOMAGE TO MARX:  
AFFIRMS LOYALTY TO LENIN

1. SUMMARY: THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF KARL MARX'S  
BIRTH HAS PROVIDED THE OCCASION FOR A ROUND OF PUBLIC  
STATEMENTS BY EAST GERMAN LEADERS OSTENSIBLY  
TO PAY HOMAGE TO KARL MARX BUT IN FACT TO REAFFIRM  
THE GDR'S COMMITMENT TO MARXISM-LENINISM AND THE  
SOVIET UNION. IN THE PROCESS THE OFFICIAL GDR  
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POSITION ON EUROCOMMUNISM HAS BEEN ARTICULATED  
IN UNUSUALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS. END SUMMARY.  
2. IN RECENT WEEKS A NUMBER OF PROMINENT  
EAST GERMAN LEADERS HAVE REAFFIRMED THE REGIME'S  
LOYALTY TO MARXISM-LENINISM. EGON KRENZ, FIRST  
SECRETARY OF THE GDR YOUTH ORGANIZATION (FDJ),  
SPEAKING TO THE KOMSOMOL CONGRESS IN MOSCOW,

STATED THAT MARXISM IS INDIVISIBLE FROM LENINISM AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, ASSERTED THAT THE USSR AND THE GDR ARE LINKED FOREVER. JOACHIM HERRMANN, GDR CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY FOR AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA, TOLD A CONFERENCE AT THE SED PARTY SCHOOL ON MAY 3 THAT THE GDR FOLLOWS THE PATH OF MARX, ENGELS AND LENIN AND STATED THAT SUPPORT OF MARXISM MEANT SUPPORT OF MARXISM-LENINISM. ERICH HONECKER, SPEAKING IN KARL-MARX-STADT AT A MASS RALLY ON MAY 5, TOUCHED ON THE SAME THEMES, STRESSING THE CONTRIBUTION LENIN HAD MADE TO MARXIST THEORY AND UNDERSCORING THE GDR'S LOYALTY TO THE USSR.

3. THE MOST DETAILED TREATMENT OF THIS ISSUE, AND THE CLEAREST EXPOSITION OF EAST GERMAN VIEWS ON EUROCOMMUNISM WHICH WE HAVE SEEN IN SOME TIME, WAS GIVEN BY KURT HAGER, POLITBURO MEMBER AND PARTY SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND SCIENCE AND THE LEADING PARTY IDEOLOGUE, AT LEIPZIG'S KARL MARX UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 28. HAGER, AFTER MAKING CLEAR THAT THE SED CONTINUES TO CONSIDER ITSELF MARXIST-LENINIST, STATED THAT THE TEACHINGS OF KARL MARX AS DEVELOPED FURTHER BY LENIN PROVIDE THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNISM SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL CONDITIONS. HAGER REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL OR REGIONAL VARIANTS OF MARXISM AS THIS, FOR EXAMPLE, MANIFESTS ITSELF IN EUROCOMMUNISM. SUCH VARIANT APPROACHES, HE SAID, ENCOURAGE NATIONALIST TENDENCIES. HE WARNED THAT IF AN INTERNATIONAL, UNIFORM APPLICATION OF MARXISM-LENINISM IS REPLACED BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL EFFORTS THIS WILL WEAKEN THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MOVEMENT AND NATIONAL OBJECTIVES WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED EITHER.

4. HAGER ACCEPTS THE NEED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION SPECIFIC NATIONAL AND HISTORICAL CONDITIONS IN A COUNTRY. IN APPLYING GENERAL RULES OF MARXISM-LENINISM. HOWEVER, HE CHARGED THE EUROCOMMUNISTS WITH RISKING THE DIVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT BY REJECTING MARXISM-LENINISM AND CRITICIZED THOSE WHO DENY THE APPLICABILITY TO OTHER AREAS OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SOVIET REVOLUTION AND THE EXPERIENCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM IN EASTERN EUROPE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE NO PARTY IS SPECIFICALLY ALLUDED TO IN HAGER'S SPEECH, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT ONE OF THE ISSUES WHICH CONCERNS THE GDR LEADERSHIP WAS THE RECENT CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF SPAIN AND THE DROPPING OF THE TERM LENINIST FROM THE CPE'S SELF-DESCRIPTION. HAGER'S SPEECH CONSTITUTES A CLEAR REJECTION OF THE CPE APPROACH, IN CASE ANYONE WAS IN DOUBT. HAGER'S REMARKS, AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER SED LEADERS IN RECENT WEEKS, REPRESENT A REAFFIRMATION OF THE SED'S COMMITMENT TO UNRECONSTRUCTED

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MARXISM-LENINISM AND TO THE SOVIET UNION.  
IT ALSO COMES AS CLOSE AS THE GDR IS LIKELY TO PERMIT ITSELF TO A CHASTISEMENT OF THE CPE. PERHAPS MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, IT CONSTITUTES A WARNING TO THOSE WITHIN THE SED (SUCH AS RUDOLF BAHRO, THE AUTHOR OF THE SUPPRESSED

WORK "THE ALTERNATIVE" AND, POSSIBLY, THE AUTHORS  
OF THE ALLEGED "MANIFESTO") THAT AN INDEPENDENT,  
PECULIARLY EAST GERMAN BRAND OF COMMUNISM  
WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. AN ADDED INTERESTING  
FEATURE OF HAGER'S SPEECH IS HIS EMPHATIC  
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REJECTION OF REGIONAL VARIANTS AS WELL AS  
NATIONAL VARIANTS OF MARXISM. THIS WOULD SEEM  
TO INDICATE THAT THE GDR WILL COUNSEL  
THE MOST ORTHODOX INTERPRETATION OF DOCTRINE AND  
THE STRICTIST LOYALTY TO THE USSR AMONG THE  
EMERGING SOCIALIST PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
AND AFRICA WITH WHICH THE GDR IS PRESENTLY  
ENGAGED IN CADRE TRAINING AND PARTY ORGANIZATION.  
END COMMENT. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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